

NSC BRIEFING

1 May 1957

**FLAREUP IN HONDURAS-NICARAGUA BORDER DISPUTE**

I. In past few days, flareup of century-old border dispute with Nicaragua has brought belligerent threats from Honduras' governing military junta.

A. Area in dispute (map) lies on Carribean coast and inland; size of Connecticut, but mostly swamp & jungle.

B. Whole area was awarded to Honduras by 1906 arbiter: Nicaraguans then reneged on arbitration; have occupied narrow strip north of river boundary since 1937 and continue to claim whole.

1. Last Feb, Hondurans created new frontier department (Gracias a Dios) which overlaps strip under Nicaraguan occupation.

C. On 1 May, OAS Council began meeting on formal Honduran complaint of Nicaraguan "aggression" as result of two alleged incidents in Nicaraguan strip.

D. [REDACTED] the army has been ordered to assume military control of "all territory" claimed by Honduras (including Nicaraguan strip).

E. Nicaraguan troops, in turn, have been ordered to positions near the border.

II. This belligerent Honduran posture is in part attributable to internal military intrigues.

A. One Honduran army clique wishes to increase its control of governing junta, dump moderates who support quick return to civilian gov't.